

1713

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The Impartial Man's OPINION,

Who shou'd be SPEAKER
of the *House of Commons* of
Ireland, 1713.

I Very much suspect the credit of *my Opinion*, because it is *Impartial*; and yet for this Reason, because it is *Impartial*, I shall desire leave to Recommend it.

It is very probable, our *House of Commons* will be as full at the Opening of this Session of *Parliament*, as ever it has been known upon any Occasion heretofore; and the *Members* on both Sides, are not shy to Declare, That this *Great* and *Early* Appearance is made, upon account of *contending for a Speaker*.

The State of the Contention upon this Occasion lies thus,

The *Tory Party* are for Chosing such a *Person* into the *Chair*, as shall be Recommended by the Queen, and her chief Governour of this Kingdom.

The *Whiggs* are for setting up a *Person* for the *Chair*, in Opposition to this Recommendation.

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In these Circumstances, I think it will be very easy, for a Man of my *Impartial Opinion*, to determine for the *Party* which is in the Right, and which every *honest Friend to our Country*, and every *dutiful Subject to our Queen*, ought to follow in this point.

To say all at once, that can be said for the *Whiggs*, I will assert this to be the *Privilege* of the *Commons*, to *Elect their Speaker* ; But then, I must desire leave to add, That this is the *Prerogative* of the *Crown*, to *Approve, or Disapprove him* : From whence it obviously follows, that it is a kind Condescension in the Government, to intimate the Person who wou'd be Acceptable ; that so no Person, presuming to stand against the Pleasure of the Government, may suffer the Disgrace of being Disapprov'd.

The *Speaker* of a House of *Commons*, is the Person, whom the Government entrusts with *Answers* to the *Addresses* of the *Commoners*, and with Messages of the greatest Importance to be transacted in the *House*, upon which accounts, tho' it be the *Privilege* of the Members to Elect this *Great Officer of Trust*, between the *Court* and the *Commons* ; yet, I should think, their *Duty*, their *Interest*, and even *good Manners* might direct them to Chose such a Person, as the Chief Governor should declare he was willing to Confide in : For unless such a Person be Employ'd in this Service, he that should come in against the Inclination of the Government, wou'd only be the Messenger of *Jealousies* and *Misunderstandings* ; our *Divisions* must *Encrease*, and our *Business* be lost.

Look into the *Precedents* of time past, and you shall find the *Speaker* of the *House of Commons* re-

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commended by the Crown almost in every Instance. It is a known Method for the *Secretary* or some of the *Privy Council*. to declare the Pleasure of the Crown to the Members, at the very Entrance upon the Proceeding to an Election of a *Speaker* : And so very Observant have the *Commons* been of this Recommendation, that you shall see in *England*, in the *Parliament*, 1640. a *Parliament* not overabounding in Duty to the *Crown*; yet, in this point, they agreed to Chose Mr. *Lenthall*, recommended by the King, tho' they Agreed in nothing else, that his Majesty recommended to them.

In this Kingdom of *Ireland*, and at this time, what shou'd induce Men to oppose the *QUEEN*, to Attempt to lay aside a *Gentleman*, whom She has a Mind to Trust with her kind Correspondencies with Her People, and to Confront Her with a Person, whom She has lately Displac'd from an Eminent Trust, to say no more of him:—— VVhat can induce Men to such sort of Enterprizes, as these? This is not only an Undutiful, but an unpolitick Contention.

I know many of the *VVhigg Party*, will leave them in this Division, altho' they will join them in every thing else. For in good Earnest, what Construction can be put upon this Attempt, for Men to Oppose a *VVorthy*, and a *sufficient Person* Recommended by the *Government*, but this, That there is a *Faction* in *Ireland*, setting themselves in Opposition to the *Government* upon every occasion : It is notorious how much *this Spirit* has prevail'd among us in too many Instances of late.

And

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And whither does all this tend, but to A-
front the *Queen*, to fly in the Face of her chief
Governor here, and to Glory in being *Licentious*,
under the Notion of *Liberty*. The Conclusion of
all which will be, to have that *Liberty* taken from
us, which we knew not how to use ; to have *our*
Selves, *our Estates*, and *Fortunes*, Taxed from
England, by a People, who have no extraordina-
ry favourable Dispositions for *our Country*, and
to be sure will Treat us the *worse*, upon these
Provocations, which shall bring us under their *Di-*
cretion.

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